

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR SAFETY!

Natural areas present hazards. Rocks roll, trees topple, and limbs drop without warning. Wild animals, uneven ground, and changing weather can pose dangers. People may create other hazards through campfires, traffic, snowplay, and poor decisions.

Water is the main cause of death here. Many drowning victims were walking or climbing near rivers and unexpectedly fell in.

The Park Service works to reduce risks, but your safety is in your hands. Keep alert. Watch where you step. Read the warnings below and on bulletin boards, and ask a ranger for advice.

Be Safe!

DROWNING is the #1 cause of death in national parks. Getting out of rivers can be nearly impossible; rocks are smooth and slippery and swift, cold water saps your strength. Be extra careful along rivers; falling in is as dangerous as swimming.

TICKS: Common in foothill grasses; check yourself after a walk. Their bite is painless, but a small percentage carry Lyme disease.



Remove them carefully with tweezers; seek a ranger's and/or doctor's advice.

PLAGUE: Please do not feed or touch ANY park animals. Fleas on rodents can carry plague. Deer mice feces can carry hantavirus.

TUSSOCKSIS: Tussock moths occur naturally in these forests. Tiny hairs from these moths, caterpillars, egg masses, and cocoons may cause allergic reactions in some people. Learn more at visitor centers.

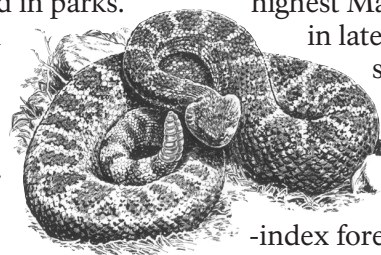
UNSAFE WATER: Giardia, a protozoan in lakes and streams, can cause intestinal problems. Iodine and other chemicals may not be as reliable as heat in killing bacteria or Giardia, but can be effective if used properly. Boil drinking water at least 3 minutes.

SAFE WATER: Each of the parks' 13 water systems is tested regularly to ensure that it meets state and federal standards. Annual Consumer Confidence Reports are available at visitor centers, or call 559-565-3341.

POISON OAK: This common foothills shrub is red in fall with whitish berries, bare in winter, spring leaves are shiny green in groups of three. If you touch any part of the plant, wash skin and clothes as soon as possible.



RATTLESNAKES: Watch where you put your hands and feet! Most common in the foothills, rattlesnakes are protected in parks. Most bites result from teasing or handling them. Very few people die, but tissue damage can be severe. If bitten, avoid panic; call a ranger or 911.



COUGARS: Mountain lions roam this area, but the chance of seeing one is very small. It is rare, but cougars have attacked people and pets, so be aware. Avoid hiking alone. Watch children closely; never let them run ahead. If you see a cougar, the goal is to convince it that you are not prey and may be dangerous to it:

- Don't run. Cougars associate running with prey and give chase.
- Try to appear as large as possible. Don't crouch or try to hide.
- Hold your ground or back away slowly while facing the lion.
- Pick up children.
- If the lion acts aggressively, wave your hands, shout, and throw stones or sticks at it.
- If attacked, fight back!
- Report any cougar sightings.

CARBON MONOXIDE: This odorless, colorless gas can be fatal. Never burn charcoal in enclosed spaces such as a tent, camper, or RV.

HYPOTHERMIA: This life-threatening condition can occur year-round. Stay dry and snack often. If others don't respond to the need for warmer clothes or are stumbling, forgetful, or extremely tired and drowsy, get warm sugary drinks into them immediately. Get them into dry clothing, sleeping bags, and shelter.

OZONE POLLUTION: This colorless gas rises into the Sierra on warm afternoon winds. Levels are highest May to October, peaking in late afternoon. These peaks sometimes reach "unhealthy" state and federal standards and can affect respiratory systems. See air-quality

-index forecasts in visitor centers. Ozone forms in sunlight from gases in car and factory exhaust. This statewide problem challenges us all to reduce pollution.

WEST NILE VIRUS is caused by bites from infected mosquitos. The chance of infection is low; human illness is rare. Avoid mosquito bites.

SAFE PARK TRAVEL: Avoid going alone. Tell someone your plans and return time. Beware of uneven or slippery surfaces. Wear sun-glasses and sunscreen. Share roads and trails with others: cars, bikes, walkers, and wildlife all travel here.

LIGHTNING: As soon as you see dark clouds or lightning or hear thunder, get inside a large building or a vehicle, if possible. Do not stand under trees or in shallow caves. Avoid projecting above the surrounding landscape such as standing on a ridge, on Moro Rock, or in open areas. Stay away from water, wire fences, and metal railings.

OPERATION NO-GROW

- Prevent illegal marijuana growing.
- Protect visitor & employee safety.
- Preserve our natural resources.
- Promote *your* National Park experience!

Keep parks safe and free from illegal activities! Report suspicious activities to 1-888-NPS-CRIME.

Rules of the Road

GIANT FOREST ROAD WORK

Slow for construction along the Generals Highway just north of the Giant Forest Museum and near the Sherman Tree. The parking lot for the tree remains open. See page 8 for details.

DON'T LOSE YOUR BRAKES

Always downshift when going downhill. In automatic vehicles, put the gearshift on 1, 2 or L. The engine gets louder as it slows you down, but it will save your brakes.

COLD NIGHTS/ICY ROADS

Winter starts early here. Watch for icy roads, especially at night and in mornings, and for snowplows.

LET OTHERS PASS

Slower vehicles *must* use paved turnouts to let traffic pass.

EMERGENCY CAR REPAIRS

Need towing? Call 24-hour park switchboard: 565-3341 then press zero. In Sequoia Park only, AAA for out-of-gas, lock outs, jump starts, minor repairs: call 565-4070 (24-hour).

STAY ON PAVEMENT

To protect soil and plants, you must park & travel on pavement only.

PARK ROAD CONDITIONS

24-hour recording: 1-559-565-3341 then press 9, then 4.

VEHICLE LENGTH ADVISORY

On 12 narrow miles from Potwisha Campground to Giant Forest Museum in Sequoia, advised maximum is 22 feet (6.7m). Maximum legal length limit on the Generals Highway is 40 feet (12 m) for single vehicles, 50 feet (15 m) for vehicles plus a towed unit. Alternatives: Hwy 180 from Fresno is straighter, less steep, and wider. Or, if you are towing a car, try camping in the foothills and using it to explore.

NARROW WINDING ROADS & SEASONAL CLOSURES

IN KINGS CANYON –

- Highway 180 to Cedar Grove: Closes below Kings Canyon Lodge 11/8 and below Hume Lake turnout on 11/29.

- Panoramic Point Road: No trailers or motorhomes. Closes with first snow.

- Redwood Mountain Road: Unpaved, rough. Not plowed.

IN SEQUOIA –

- Crystal Cave Road: Closes with first snow. Maximum length 22' (6.7m). RVs not recommended.

- Mineral King Road: Closes 11/1. Steep; RVs & trailers discouraged (not permitted in campgrounds).

- Moro Rock / Crescent Meadow Road: Trailers and RVs strongly discouraged. Closes with first snow.

- South Fork Road: Partially unpaved. Slippery when wet.

DON'T STOP IN THE GRASS

Use paved turnouts only. Hot brakes and mufflers start fires.

MOTORCYCLES

Avoid oil buildup in the uphill lane.

NO GAS STATIONS IN PARK

Only Grant Grove and Cedar Grove markets sell cans of emergency gas. Fill up in Three Rivers, Clingan's Junction, or in the National Forest at:

- Hume Lake Christian Camp: 24 hours with credit card; year round. 11 miles (18 km) north of Grant Grove via Hwy 180.
- Stony Creek Village: 24 hours with credit card. Closes 11am 11/1. Between Wuksachi and Grant Grove on Generals Hwy.
- Kings Canyon Lodge: usually 9am-dark, call to confirm (see page 10). 17 miles (27 km) north from Grant Grove on Hwy 180. Closes by mid-November.

BICYCLES

Ride only on roads (not trails), single file with traffic, and wear light-colored clothes after dark. People under 18 must wear a helmet.